

Opportunity to Object to Moonlight Fire Area Invasive Plant Treatment Project

The Moonlight Fire Area Invasive Plant Treatment Project (Moonlight IPT Project) Final Environmental Assessment (EA) and draft Decision Notice (DN) are complete. Correspondence providing a website to access these electronic documents was sent to those who requested copies of the documents or submitted specific written comments related to the project.

The Moonlight IPT project is part of the Plumas National Forest Fire Restoration effort. Fire settlement funds received by the Forest Service provide a unique opportunity to restore ecosystem health, function, and resilience within the areas affected by the Moonlight (2007) wildfire. The Moonlight IPT Project proposes to treat priority invasive plant infestations using a combination of manual, mechanical, cultural, and chemical methods. The use of chemical herbicide treatments would not exceed 250 acres annually. Invasive plants proposed for treatment include jointed goatgrass, spotted knapweed, yellow starthistle, Canada thistle, Scotch broom, dyer's woad, and medusa-head. The project is located approximately 15 to 27 air miles northeast of Quincy, California in Plumas County.

The Final EA and the Draft DN are available electronically for review at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/plumas/landmanagement/projects>. Scroll down to Moonlight Fire Area Invasive Plant Treatment Project.

The Responsible Officials who will issue a decision on this project are Micki Smith, District Ranger, Mount Hough Ranger District, and Matthew Jédra, District Ranger, Beckwourth Ranger District. A copy of the Final EA, draft DN, and additional information regarding this proposed project can be obtained from: John Slown, Biologist/Planner, email: jslown@fs.fed.us; telephone: 406-329-3749.

This proposed project is subject to the objection process pursuant to 36 CFR 218 Subparts A and B.

Eligibility to File Objections

Objections will be accepted only from those who have previously submitted specific written comments regarding the proposed project either during scoping or other designated opportunity for public comment in accordance with § 218.5(a). Issues raised in objections must be based on previously-submitted, timely, specific, written comments regarding the proposed project unless based on new information arising after designated opportunities.

Individual members of organizations must have submitted their own comments to meet the requirements of eligibility as an individual. Objections received on behalf of an organization are considered as those of the organization only. If an objection is submitted on behalf of a number of individuals or organizations, each individual or organization listed must meet the eligibility requirement of having previously submitted comments on the project (§ 218.7). Names and addresses of objectors will become part of the public record.

Contents of an Objection

Incorporation of documents by reference in the objection is permitted only as provided for at § 218.8(b). Minimum content requirements of an objection are identified in (§ 218.8(d)) include:

- Objector's name, address, and telephone number (if available); with signature or other verification of authorship supplied upon request;
- Identification of the lead objector when multiple names are listed, along with verification upon request;
- Name of project, name and title of the responsible official, national forest/ranger district of project;
- Sufficient narrative description of those

aspects of the proposed project objected to, specific issues related to the project, how environmental law, regulation, or policy would be violated, and suggested remedies which would resolve the objection; and,

- Statement demonstrating the connection between prior specific written comments on this project and the content of the objection, unless the objection issue arose after the designated opportunity(ies) for comment.

Filing an Objection

Written objections, including any attachments, must be filed (regular mail, fax, email, hand-delivery, or express delivery) with the Reviewing Officer: Daniel Lovato, Forest Supervisor, c/o Katherine Carpenter, Environmental Coordinator, Plumas National Forest Supervisor's Office, 159 Lawrence Street, Quincy, CA 95971, fax 530-283-7746, within 45 days following the publication date of this legal notice in the newspaper of record. The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered objections are: 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Electronic objections must be submitted in a format such as an email message, portable document format (.pdf), plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), and Word (.doc or .docx) to objections-pacificsouthwest-plumas@fs.fed.us. It is the responsibility of Objectors to ensure their objection is received in a timely manner (§ 218.9). Please include **Moonlight IPT Project** in the subject line of electronic messages.

The publication date in the Feather River Bulletin, newspaper of record, is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection of this project. Those wishing to object to this proposed project should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source.

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